

**State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
February 11, 2014 – 10am
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Robert L. Baum, Esq., Vice Chair; Norman Gelman

Present via conference call: Shawn M. Wright, Chair; Gina McKnight-Smith, Pharma. D., M.B.A.; Rabbi Binyamin Marwick; Gary L. Norman, Esq.; Laura Esquivel

Management Present: Cleveland Horton, Acting Executive Director; Nicolette Young, Assistant Director; Glendora C. Hughes, General Counsel

Staff Present: S. Spencer Dove, Executive Associate

ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTION
Call to Order	Meeting called to order 10:10am	None
Approval of Minutes	Approval of January minutes; Moved Commissioner Norman; Seconded; Passed by acclimation	Passed
Chairperson's Report		None.
Acting Executive Director's Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Met with Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, Inc., on January 30, 2014. Had five minutes to present. Very constructive and productive. 2. Human Rights Day in Annapolis was Friday, February 7, 2014. 3. February 3 – participated in Fox 45 Town Hall meeting. Discussion on race relations for about an hour. Have requested that Fox 45 include MCCR on relevant panels in the future. 4. Met with Center for Social Change on January 16 to discuss future partnership opportunities. 5. Met with CASA de Maryland on January 15. Commissioner Esquivel was in attendance. Another productive meeting with promise for collaboration in the future. 6. Verizon is sponsoring Open House on February 22 from 10-5 at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. MCCR will have a table at the Open House. 	None.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Sponsoring “Slavery by Another Name” tomorrow at MCCR. Two speakers will be present for screening. 8. April 25 – MCCR’s first Fair Housing Symposium at University of Maryland Law School. 9. Testified on behalf of <i>Senate Bill 212 – Fairness for All Marylanders Act of 2014</i> with General Counsel on February 4. 10. Scheduled to meet with Black State Troopers Association in Pikesville on February 12 to discuss issues with diversity in the force and how MCCR can be of assistance there. 11. Reviewed Case Processing reports. 	
Assistant Director’s Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively filling positions. 2. Intake Supervisor started last Wednesday. 3. Civil Rights Officer III vacant due to retirement. Been reclassified as an Investigations Supervisor, and submitted hiring freeze exception request to DBM. 4. Also recruiting Civil Rights Officer I. 	None.
General Counsel’s Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewed legislation spreadsheet and bill hearings in Annapolis. 2. MCCR doesn’t expect many more bills to be introduced at this point in the Legislative Session. Will have conference call on Thursday. 	None.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider all bills outside of Title 20 on a case-by-case basis, with an eye on making sure that MCCR considers whether or not a certain bill affects a protected class. 	None.

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	2. Preparing the discuss amendments to the Strategic Plan at the March, 2014 meeting.	
New Business	<p>1. Annual Ethics Disclosure – Commissioners need to log on the State Ethics Commission and file the Ethics Disclosure form by April 30th.</p> <p>2. Commissioner Gelman motions to support SB78 FAV; Seconded by Commissioner Esquivel; no discussion; Call to Question Commissioner Gelman; unanimous consent MCCR supports SB78 FAV. Testimony to be submitted for when the bill has a hearing in the House.</p>	Commission supports SB78 Favorable; directs Staff to submit testimony in support of bill during House hearing.
Moved into Executive Session 11:08 a.m.		
Adjournment		